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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY L:MBFELDMAN:MJB
APPROVED BY L:MBFELDMAN
D - MR. SAMUELS
S/S - MR. GAMMON
ARA- MR. SHLAUDEMAN
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O 102328Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222569

EXDIS

E.O.11652 GDS
TAGS: P4 CPRS BF
SUBJECT: EXTRADITION - ROBERT L. VESCO

REFS: (A) NASSAU 1697; (B) STATE 221021

1. UPON LEARNING FOR FIRST TIME FROM REF. A THAT JUSTICE HAS ASKED WALLACE-WHITFIELD TO SEEK VESCO DETENTION WITHOUT BAIL WITHOUT COORDINATING SUCH REQUEST WITH STATE, ACTING LEGAL ADVISER FELDMAN CALLED U.S. ATTORNEY CURRAN IN NEW YORK TO ADDRESS BOTH PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE OF THE REQUEST. CURRAN NOW UNDERSTANDS THE NECESSITY FOR FULL COORDINATION ON SUCH MATTERS WITH EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT AND IS ENTIRELY RESPONSIVE TO SUCH COORDINATION. CURRAN INDICATED HIS PRESENT THINKING WOULD BE TO MAKE REQUEST FOR DETENTION OF VESCO AFTER CONCLUSION OF TUESDAY HEARING. HE EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT VESCO WOULD FLEE THE JURISDICTION RATHER THAN FACE TRIAL IN NEW YORK. FELDMAN REVIEWED CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY WALLACE-WHITFIELD AND EMBASSY AND EXPLORED IN DEPTH RISKS VESCO WOULD RUN IN JUMPING BAIL IN BAHAMAS BOTH IN TERMS OF HIS FUTURE CONFIDENTIAL

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OPERATIONS THERE AND IMPACT ON POSSIBLE EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE POINT WAS ALSO MADE THAT QUESTIONS CONCERNING U.S. MOTIVES IN PURSUING VESCO COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT PROSPECTS FOR EXTRADITION FROM THE BAHAMAS. IT WAS AGREED THAT EFFORT WOULD BE MADE IN

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NASSAU TO WORK OUT JOINT RECOMMENDATION OF EMBASSY AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TEAM ON THIS MATTER AND THAT FINAL DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN IN WASHINGTON.

2. FELDMAN ALSO EMPHASIZED THE NEED (PREVIOUSLY STRESSED TO MURPHY) FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATION FOR QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT BE RAISED AT THE HEARING CONCERNING USG INTENTIONS RESPECTING PROSECUTION FOR OTHER OFFENSES AND RELATED QUESTION OF ALLEGED U.S. POLITICAL MOTIVATION FOR EXTRADITION REQUEST. CURRAN SEEMS TO APPRECIATE THIS PROBLEM BUT REMAINS EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATIONS IN BAHAMAS CONCERNING FUTURE USG INTENTIONS. CURRAN BELIEVES THIS IS A MATTER THAT CAN BE RESOLVED IN MEETINGS ON MONDAY AND YOU CAN EXPECT FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM L ON DOCTRINE OF SPECIALITY IN ADVANCE OF THOSE MEETINGS.

3. WE CERTAINLY SHARE EMBASSY'S CONCERN THAT USG PREPARATION BE ADEQUATE IN THIS CASE. EMBASSY CABLES ANALYZING SPECIFIC ISSUES IN THIS CASE HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD. REF. B ANTICIPATED THE POSSIBILITY OF PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF LACK OF CO-ORDINATION OR DIFFERENCES OF VIEW WITH JUSTICE, AND EMPHASIZED THIS DEPARTMENT'S ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MATTER. IF QUESTIONS DO ARISE THAT YOU CANNOT RESOLVE WITH JUSTICE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SCENE, WE WILL CERTAINLY TRY TO TAKE CARE OF THEM IN WASHINGTON IF YOU WILL ADVISE DEPT (L) BY CABLE OR PHONE OF YOUR CONCERNS.

4. POINTS RAISED REFTEL A WILL BE ADRESSED IN SEPTEL. RUSH

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